

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated August 11, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. The application is believed to be in allowable condition.

The disclosure is objected to for containing an embedded hyperlink. Applicants have amended the specification to remove the embedded hyperlinks. Applicants note that they do not intend for the hyperlinks to be active links, and therefore the objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 3-8, 11-12, 14-15, 17-20, 24-25, 27 and 30-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) under U.S. Patent No. 6,735,571 (Coleman). Applicants respectfully request that Coleman is not prior art to the application as a 102(e) reference. The effective filing date of Coleman is June 15, 2001, which is the date of filing of a Provisional Application from which the Coleman reference claims priority. The filing date of the present application is March 30, 2001, which pre-dates Coleman. Therefore, the rejection as to Coleman should be withdrawn.

Claims 3-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by www.erieri.com (ERI reference). As discussed below, the claims are patentable over the ERI reference. Claim 11 has been canceled and rejection as to this claim is therefore moot.

Independent claim 3 is directed to a method of providing compensation information over a communication network. The method includes prompting the user to select job comparison information, receiving, over the communication network, a selection by the user of comparison information, retrieving, from the database containing compensation information associated with jobs, desired comparison compensation information corresponding to the selection by the user of the comparison information, and transmitting the desired comparison compensation information to the user over the communication network in addition to the desired compensation information in a format for comparing the desired compensation information and the desired comparison compensation information.

The ERI reference discusses research software and research reports on area wage and salary differentials. The ERI software allows users to receive salary information regarding selected jobs.

Applicants have amended claim 3 to include the limitations of canceled claim 11. The Examiner cites page 54 of the ERI reference in rejecting claim 3 and claim 11. Page 54 of the ERI reference, however, is not prior art as to the application. Page 54 shows a copyright of 2004, while the application was filed March 30, 2001. For at least these reasons, claim 3 is patentable over the cited reference. Claims 4-10 and 12-13 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 3 and are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 3 is patentable.

Independent claim 14 is directed to a system for providing compensation information. The system includes an interface module configured to provide the compensation information from the compensation module to the network for the user and configured to provide a job opportunities link that is selectable by the user to connect the user via the communication network to information relating to at least one opportunity for a job corresponding to the selected job data.

The Examiner cites page 54 of the ERI reference as including links providing job selectable job opportunities. Page 54 of the ERI reference, however, is not prior art as to the application. Page 54 shows a copyright of 2004, while the application was filed March 30, 2001. For at least these reasons, claim 14 is patentable over the cited art. Claims 15-26 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 14 and are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 14 is patentable.

Independent claim 27 is directed to a method of providing compensation information over a packet-switched communication network. The method includes prompting, over the communication network, the user to select a link to retrieve job opportunities, and transmitting, over the communication network to the user, an indication of a link to a job opportunity, the link being selectable by the user to be connected via the communication network to information relating to at least one opportunity for a job corresponding to the selected job category.

The Examiner cites page 54 of the ERI reference as including links providing job selectable job opportunities. Page 54 of the ERI reference, however, is not prior art as to the application. Page 54 shows a copyright of 2004, while the application was filed March 30, 2001. For at least these reasons, claim 27 is patentable. Claims 28-33 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 27 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons that claim 27 is patentable.

New claims 34-37 have been added to the application. No new matter is included with the addition of these claims. Thus, claims 34-37 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

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U.S.S.N.: 09/823,524

Applicants believe this application to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. To answer any questions, or otherwise further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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